



## **FFY 2026 Louisiana Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Model Plan**

The mission of the Louisiana Housing Corporation is to ensure that every Louisiana resident is granted an opportunity to obtain safe, affordable, energy efficient housing.

The goal of the Louisiana Housing Corporation Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is to reduce the national and state consumption of fossil fuels and imported oil and assist eligible low income families reduce their residential heating and cooling energy costs.

### **Components of the FFY2026 LA LIHEAP Program**

- Heating Assistance 12/15/2025 – 3/31/2026
- Cooling Assistance 4/13/2026 – 9/30/2026
- Crisis Assistance 10/1/2025 – 9/30/2026
- Weatherization Assistance 7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027

### **Allocation of FFY2026 Funding**

The percentages of funds used to operate each of the components are:

- Heating Assistance 25.00%
- Cooling Assistance 45.50%
- Year Round Crisis Assistance 10.00%
- Weatherization Assistance 7.00%
- Administrative 10.00%
- Assurance 16 (Client Education) 2.50%

### **Eligibility and Monitoring**

- Program will use 60% of the State's median income to determine eligibility
- Clients are eligible once for each of the 4 components.
- 39 Sub-grantees serving 64 parishes for utility assistance
- 4 Sub-grantees serving 64 parishes for weatherization assistance

### **LIHEAP Heating and Cooling Benefit Matrix**

- No Changes.



## FFY2026 Plan Changes from FFY2025

- **Section 1.10a** Removed “A state-side online application that allows a customer to complete data entry and submit an application electronically for processing” and the comment “Link will be available beginning December 2024.”

*Although a statewide application is possible within the Grantee’s software, there was a Grantee staffing restructure in FFY2025 that prevented implementation. Louisiana will be opening the locally available option in all areas with all Subgrantees in FFY2026 utilizing the same software.*

### **\*Under Revision\***

- **Section 4.7** Added “In Order to receive crisis assistance: \*Must the household have non-working heating or cooling equipment – Yes for Year-Round Crisis.”
- **Section 4.7** Clarified the explanations by adding the following additions in *italics*:

*“For Bill Payment Crisis Assistance:*

Eligible applicants are required to provide support documentation to establish a crisis situation. (i.e. Disconnect/Shut-Off Notice, Final Bill and proof of new account, doctor's statements or medical reports, and/or written estimates to refill fuel tanks). Crisis is First Come - First Serve.

Per Section 5.1, D. of the Louisiana LIHEAP Service Delivery Guide, ☐ Life-threatening crisis—Service shall be delivered within 18 hours from the date of the completed application.

o If the health or safety risk is due to illness or medical need, clients must provide documentation verifying the health or safety risk.

o If the health or safety risk is from extreme weather conditions, either heat or cold, the Subgrantee may document the emergency with a print-out of the weather advisory documenting the emergency by utilizing an internet weather advisory site.

*For Equipment Repair and Replacement Crisis Assistance:*

*Clients are not required to have a disconnect or pending shut-off; however, documentation of non-working heating or cooling equipment must be provided.*

*For Disaster Relief Crisis Assistance:*

*Clients are not required to have a disconnect, pending shut-off, or non-working equipment.”*

- **Section 5.10** Updated the Average Cost per Unit (ACPU) from \$8,497 to \$8,547.



- **Section 9.1** *Removed* “There are 10 out of 152 energy vendors that are not set up to receive payments directly from the LHC. Most of these are very small vendors that refuse to sign a Vendor Agreement and provide other related documents. Applicants have minimal choice for utility vendors and must use the utility vendor in their location; therefore, LHC does not discriminate against an applicant whose vendor chooses not to sign. LHC is continuing to educate vendors in regards to the Vendor Agreement.”

*Updated with* “There is only 1 out of 150 energy vendors that is not set up to receive payments directly from the LHC. LHC does not discriminate against an applicant whose vendor chooses not to sign due to utility vendors being determined based on location and not by applicant selection.”

- **Section 10.9** Updated – 1 (FFY2023)
- **Sections 11.2 – 11.5** Updated entire sections based upon public participation, Policy Advisory Council, and public hearing comments.
- **Section 12.4** Changed the address to send applicant appeals from 11637 Industriplex Blvd. to 2415 Quail Drive.
- **Section 12.5** Changed the address to send applicant appeals from 11637 Industriplex Blvd. to 2415 Quail Drive.
- **Section 13.3** Updated – “LHC’s software reported 68,961 unduplicated households benefitted from Assurance 16 funds this year. The LHC is currently working with sub-grantees to utilize FFY 2025 Client Education funds prior to the end of the 09/30/2026.”
- **Section 13.6** Updated to 68,961.
- **Section 16.1** *Removed* “LHC has worked with APPRISE, our HES software Developer, and LHC Technical Support department to collect the required performance data. There is still some trouble converting and matching the data received from the vendors to achieve an unduplicated count. The recent increased number of supplemental grants has also increased the difficulty in achieving an unduplicated count due to the extremely large data sets.

Louisiana completed the report internally for FY2023, and it was accepted May 2024. In October 2024, we will begin requesting vendor data for FY2024 and anticipate continued improvement in data collection.”

*Updated with* “Louisiana completed the report internally for FFY2024, and it was accepted March 2025. In October 2025, LHC will begin requesting vendor data for FFY2025 and will continue to improve in data collection. LHC anticipates difficulties with utility data collection this year due to a major gas vendor sale that occurred between multiple gas utilities.”



*On June 20, 2025, Governor Jeff Landry signed HB 307 into law as Act No. 351.*

*HB 307 (Act No. 351) requires state agencies or political subdivisions to verify that each applicant who applies for federal, state, or local public benefit is a person who has been recognized as a citizen of the United States by birthright, naturalization, or any other method provided for under applicable federal law or has satisfactory immigration status as a qualified alien as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1641(b). These entities are required to report individuals requesting public assistance who are not United States citizens to the State of Louisiana and to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This legislation took effect on August 1, 2025.*

*The following changes to Section 17 are to ensure compliance with Act No. 351 along with accurate reporting by increasing citizenship verification measures.*

- **Section 17.2a** Changed “Social Security Card is photocopied and retained” from “Requested” to “Required” for “All Adults in Household” and “All Members of Household”

Removed “Social Security Number (Without Actual Card)” from “All Adults in Household” and “All Members of Household”.

Changed “Government-issued identification card (i.e.: driver’s license, state ID, Tribal ID, passport, etc.)” from “Requested” to “Required” for “All Adults in Household”.

- **Section 17.3** Removed “Other – Describe: Client's submission of an original document issued by a federal or state government agency with contains the name, SSN, or other identifying information of the individual and was verified by that federal or state government agency's means (i.e. SSA data match, Social Security card) is accepted as proof of legal residency.”
- **Section 17.4b** *Removed* “A photocopy of the original Social Security Card is required for the Applicant only. Exceptions are made for any Applicant 60 years of age or older or Applicants with disabilities. Applicants who meet these exceptions (elderly and/or disabled) may substitute the photocopy of the original card with any federal or state government agency generated document containing the name, SSN, and other identifying information of the individual.

All other household members must provide a SSN by either the original Social Security card or with any federal or state government agency generated document containing the name, SSN, and other identifying information of the individual. Exceptions are made for any child born within the previous twelve months of application for which the SSA has not issued a SSN yet.”

*Updated with* “All household members must provide a SSN with the Social Security card. Exceptions are made for any child born within the previous twelve months of application for which the SSA has not issued a SSN yet.”



- **Section 17.5** *Removed* “Verified SSN with the Social Security Administration means that either an original Social Security Card is used or an original document issued by a federal or state government agency which contains the name, SSN, and other identifying information of the individual and was verified by that federal or state government agency's means (i.e. SSA data match, Social Security card) was used.

Applicants are required to provide original Social Security cards. Exceptions are made for any Applicant 60 years of age or older or Applicants with disabilities. Applicants who meet these exceptions (elderly and/or disabled) may substitute the original card with any federal or state government agency generated document containing the name, SSN, and other identifying information of the individual.

All other Household members without a SSN verified with the Social Security Administration cannot be included on the LIHEAP application. Exceptions are made for any child born within the previous twelve months of application for which the SSA has not issued a SSN yet.”

*Updated with* “Verified SSN with the Social Security Administration means all household members must provide a SSN with the actual Social Security card. Exceptions are made for any child born within the previous twelve months of application for which the SSA has not issued a SSN yet.”

- **Section 17.9** Added “Clients are relied on for reports of non-delivery or partial delivery”

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